

Connecting

D.C. Department of Mental Health



February 2004

Meeting the Mental Health Needs of Our City

Vol. 2 No. 6

Message from the Director

FY 2004 has started off with a bang at DMH! The judge presiding over the *Dixon* case approved the exit criteria to end the more than 30 years old lawsuit and the federal court's oversight of the public mental health system. We're on the right path.

Unfortunately, all is not well in some of our schools and neighborhoods. Recent tragic incidents involving our youth are alarming and DMH is strengthening our support of children, parents and the community. I want to thank Joyce Timmons and Eunice Long of Contracts and Procurement for rallying us to contribute to a fund to help the Ballou HS student's family with his burial expenses.

When we work with other agencies through DC CINGS (Children Inspired Now Gain Strength), our system of care for children, youth and families, we achieve great things. In October, CINGS partners – DMH, Human Services, Child and Family Services Agency, Health and DC Public Schools – cared for children and families affected by the mercury spill at Ballou. Now CINGS partners are caring for the communities grieving for their young shooting victims.

We know the importance of building resiliency among young people and elders and assisting adults with their recovery. We also know that educating people on where to get help with life issues is our greatest challenge. The Access HelpLine – 1-888-7WE-HELP – and the new toll free number for youth— 1-866-245-6340 – are in place to help. I encourage each of you share these numbers with District residents and let them know when they need to talk, we'll listen.

Martha Knisley, Director

DC CINGS Wins National Recognition for Outreach

By Wilma Harvey



Pictured from left to right: **Andrea Weisman, DMH Alternative Pathways; Velva Spriggs, DMH Child and Youth Services Division; Kieva Bankins, DC CINGS; Jendayo Grady, DC CINGS; Gary Blau, Adolescent and Family Branch, CMHS; Martha B. Knisley, DMH Director; Inez P. Scope, DMH Family Advocate; Wilma R. Harvey, DC CINGS; Rosa Hamlett, DC CINGS; Paola Nunez, DC CINGS.** Not pictured, **Nicholas Geleta, DC CINGS.**

DC CINGS (Children Inspired Now Gain Strength) was recently nationally recognized for achievement in communications at the 2003 Excellence in Community Communications and Outreach (ECCO) Recognition Program., which took place in San Antonio, TX.

"This honor also celebrates the talents, strengths, and successes of communities that are part of a federal pro-

gram to build community-based systems of care for children with serious emotional disturbances and their families," **Martha Knisley, DMH Director.**

DC CINGS competed with more than 87 entries submitted by mental health professionals and child advocates from across the country to earn recognition. DC CINGS placed first receiving the GOLD AWARD for the audio compact disc (CD) entitled, "Our Side." The SILVER AWARD was received for the Multi-Agency Planning Team (M.A.P.T.) Family Member Training.

The ECCO Recognition Program highlights communications achievements that promote children's mental health. The "Our Side" CD was created by Alternative Pathways/Youth Anticipating Change, and is currently being used by the Metropolitan Police Department as a vital part of their training for working with youth. The MAPT training enables family members to work effectively within the system of care for children, youth and their families.

DC CINGS' vision is to ensure that children will live in safe, stable homes and communities in which they can grow into healthy and productive adults. The mission is to build a system of care for children, youth, and their families that spans the mental health continuum from prevention to wellness.

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Employees Needed to Volunteer at DC School

DMH is seeking employees to volunteer during the lunch hour at John F. Cook Elementary School located on P Street, NW. **Linda Kaufman, Director of Organizational Development**, is spearheading this volunteer effort. She says the idea is very simple: one day a week volunteers have lunch with a student identified by the school who could use a little extra attention.

In the beginning, Ms. Kaufman envisions that the volunteering will be a fun activity (lunch, game, etc.) and may develop into something different (tutoring during lunch), etc.

Initially, 10 volunteers are needed to spend one lunch hour a week at the school. For more information, interested employees should contact Ms. Kaufman at 671-3152 or linda.kaufman@dc.gov.



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DC CINGS Brings Home Gold and Silver Awards

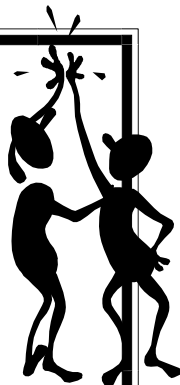
The ECCO Recognition Program is sponsored by the Comprehensive Mental Health Services for Children and Their Families Program of the federal Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS), Substance Abuse and Health Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.



HR Director Now SPHR

DMH Human Resources Director **Ivy McKinley** recently passed the Senior Professional of Human Resources (SPHR) exam.

Ms. McKinley said that she chose to take the most difficult HR exam which is the SPHR. As a result of her accomplishment, she said that new business cards are in order to reflect her new credentials!



The ECCO recognition presentations by category included: Media Outreach, Community Outreach: Parents & Caregivers, Community Outreach: Children & Youth, Professional Outreach, Partnership Development, Communications Planning, Communications Training, Video Production, and Other.

All entries were peer-judged, and the criteria included consideration of planning, cultural competence/family involvement, message, execution, presentation, creativity, audience, effectiveness and evaluation.

For more information about DC CINGS, send an email to wilma.harvey@dc.gov.

Consumer Finds Services Helpful

Road to Stability Bumpy but Successful



The road is still tough for Michael Jones but he has reached a point of serenity. Mr. Jones has been a mental health consumer since 1976—from St. Elizabeths Hospital to Creative Connections, Inc. He has pretty much run the gamut of mental health services in the District. Thanks to those services, Mr. Jones is a survivor because he has learned that when he's in a state of crisis that he can't do anything.

These days Mr. Jones is busy doing positive things for himself and his community. He is most proud of his efforts in introducing people to the Access HelpLine. DMH Director **Martha Knisley** and Mayor **Anthony Williams** have recognized his contributions to supporting the mental health community. This spring, Mr. Jones will be working with **Frances Priester, Director of the Office of Consumer and Family Affairs**, on a short-term project setting up focus groups with mental health consumers.

Mr. Jones is the proud recipient of 30 awards. Currently, he is a member of the Edgewood Terrace Technology Board. This spring he plans to attend the University of District of Columbia to study journalism.

Permanent employment is something that Mr. Jones wants. He realizes that a job would be an added bonus to his development. More importantly, the day-to-day tasks of maintaining his own apartment, managing a bank account and paying his bills that let Mr. Jones know how far he has come.



- **February 18**—Black History Program & Pot Luck Lunch, MHA, 4th Floor. **Contact Dr. Juan Lovelace at 673-7759.**
- **February 21**—The CSA to participate in the DC One Church, One Child, Family Resource Day at the Shepard Park Christian Church. **Contact John Graham at 698-2386.**
- **Through February 29**—Black History Exhibit—MHA 4th Floor, Office of Consumer and Family Affairs. **Contact Paul Washington, 673-3529.**
- **March 3**—DMH FY03-04 Budget Oversight Hearing, 9 am Council of the District of Columbia, Committee on Human Rights. **Contact Linda Grant at 673-1937.**
- **April 22**—The DC State Mental Health Planning Council 4th Annual Judge Aubrey E. Robinson, Jr. Memorial Mental Health Conference. The theme is "Recovery: Homelessness to Home Ownership." The day long event will focus on the housing options for persons in recovery from mental illness. It will be held at the Renaissance Hotel, 999 9th Street, NW. **Contact Dr. Juanita Reaves at 673-7597.**

DMH Scorecard Goals for FY 2004

Goal 1: Provide and maintain mental health services in each of the identified transformation schools in the city. The target for FY 2004 is 10 schools. The DMH School Mental Health Program is currently in 31 D.C. public and charter schools.

Goal 2: Develop 300 more housing units.

Goal 3: Reduce the number of youth in out-of state placements. The target for FY 2004 is 100.



Sobering Station Provides Shelter During Winter

The **Community Services Agency's** Sobering Station, located at 1900 Massachusetts Avenue, SE, Building 12, (DC General Detox Facility), is a place for men and women who are at risk on the streets, or who cannot manage in shelters because they are intoxicated.

Open daily from 7 pm – 8:30 am through March 31, 2004, the station provides showers, snacks, and overnight shelter, and will transport program participants to a drop-in center in the morning.

Persons in need of services provided by the Sobering Station can be referred to The United Planning Organization (UPO). UPO will arrange for its Hypothermia Van to pick up and transport individuals to the Sobering Station. Phone UPO at 1-800-535-7252.

For more information about the Sobering Station, phone **Michele May, Homeless Services Coordinator**, at 698-5263.

The nightly census for the Sobering Station for the month of January 2004 was males 361 and females 10.



Bells ring again at **St. Elizabeths Hospital** every hour from sun-up until 9 pm. This tradition started in the 1950s and ended about 20 years ago.

MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD CITIZEN SUMMITS

ALL EVENTS BEGIN AT 7 PM
VOLUNTEERS ARRIVE AT 6 PM

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17 – WARD 8
ALLEN CHAPEL A.M.E. CHURCH
2498 ALABAMA AVENUE, SE

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18 – WARD 4
NATIVITY SCHOOL
6008 GEORGIA AVENUE, NW

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19 – WARD 2
KENNEDY RECREATION CENTER
7TH & P STREETS, NW

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23 – WARD 1
ALL SOULS CHURCH
1500 HARVARD STREET, NW

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24 – WARD 7
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
4103 BENNING ROAD, NE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26 – WARD 6
SHERWOOD RECREATION CENTER
640 G STREET, NE

Employees interested in volunteering should contact **Linda Kaufman** at linda.kaufman@dc.gov or 671-3152.

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New Appointments Ensure DMH Strength and Success



Dan Byrne is the Risk Manager for the Department. His responsibilities are to identify and lessen clinical, financial and operational risks to the Department. Mr. Byrne monitors consumer and employee safety, reports of abuse and neglect, consumer rights, fire

safety, medication errors, infection control, vehicle operations and much more. He works closely with the Office of the Inspector General and other organizations that monitor mental health services. He is located in the Mental Health Authority.

Prior to becoming the risk manager, Mr. Byrne served as the Director of Quality Services for the CSA.



Carol Crew, as the Associate Director for Performance Improvement at Saint Elizabeths Hospital, provides administrative direction in preparation for full accreditation. She plans, directs, controls, coordinates, and evaluates performance improvements.

Ms. Crew has more than 30 years of psychiatric nursing experience with a primary focus on management operations to assure accreditation compliance. New to Washington, Ms. Crew said that she is excited about being apart of the revitalization of the historic St. Elizabeths Hospital.



Earl Cabbell is the Chief Operating Officer (COO), a new position in the Authority. As the COO, Mr. Cabbell will establish and oversee internal controls for operating units within the department. This includes management of the budget, human resources,

information systems facilities management, auditing, risk management, contracts and procurement and reporting.

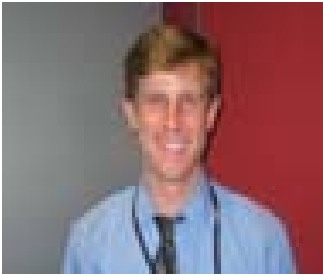
Mr. Cabbell brings several years of experience in fiscal and administrative leadership roles in District government and a distinguished career in private industry. He also will focus on increasing timeliness for our internal processes, improving reporting and budget management.



Herbert "Bert" Davis is the DMH expert in audit functions. His official title is Auditor. As such he exercises responsibility for overseeing effective and efficient financial and business operations throughout the Department

and works in the Authority. As the technical authority on auditing, Mr. Davis defines objectives, interprets policy and determines the impact of proposed policies on the Department.

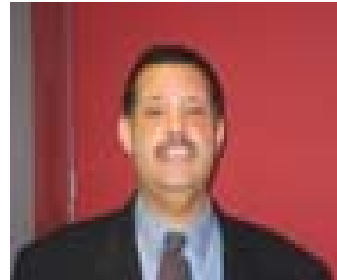
Prior to joining the Director's staff, Mr. Davis was the chief financial officer at the Community Services Agency. He is a certified public accountant with more than 10 years experience in accounting.



James “J.P.” Ellison serves as the DMH Chief Compliance Officer. He is responsible for planning, developing, coordinating and administering the DMH compliance program. He also works closely with staff to ensure compliance with Medicare and Medicaid laws. His office is located in the Author-

ity.

Mr. Ellison is an attorney with experience in both the federal government and private industry. His experience includes compliance counseling and litigation on Medicare and Medicaid issues.



Gerald Tolliver is the Associate Director for Fiscal and Information Systems at Saint Elizabeths Hospital. He is responsible for the financial management system that ensures the achievement of goals and objectives of the hospital. He also prepares spending plans, monitors the cost-effectiveness of services, and

identifies workforce strategies to reduce overtime and inappropriate leave usage.

Mr. Tolliver has an array of experience in both District government and the private sector.



Ella Thomas is the Deputy Director for Programs and Policy in the Mental Health Authority. This new position combines the previous Deputy Director for Delivery Systems Management and Director of Organizational Development positions. Ms. Thomas will spearhead the Department's

efforts to improve continuity of care across our adult and child systems.

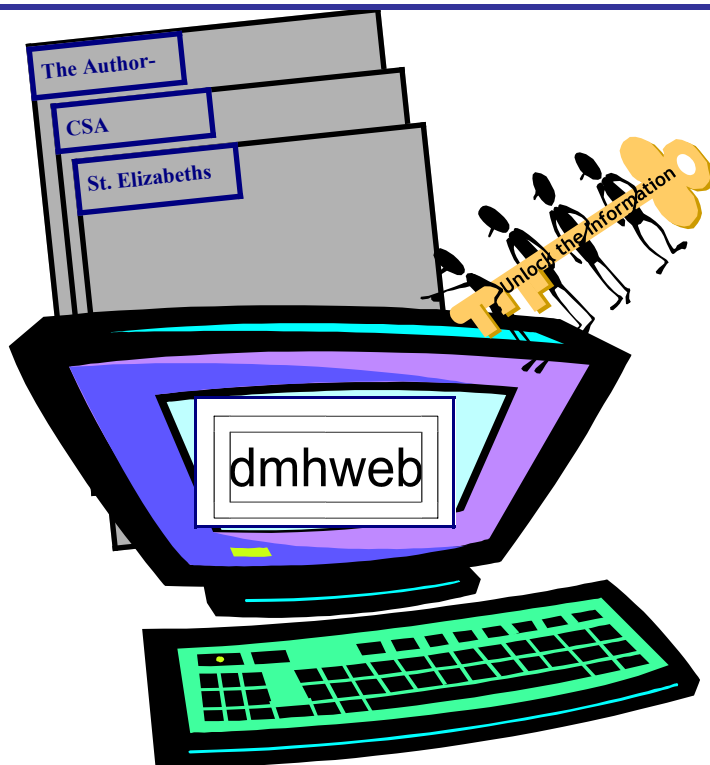
Ms. Thomas comes to our agency with more than 20 years experience in public mental health. She has worked tirelessly to expand child and adult programs and has successfully built a culturally competent system of care in Ohio.



Darryl Washington is the CSA's new Director of Finance and Reimbursement Services. He is responsible for accounting, accounts receivable and payable, financial reporting and budgeting functions for the CSA. Mr. Washington assures effective and efficient billing in accordance with the requirements for Medicaid and Medicare. He

also monitors expenditures to ensure compliance with overall budget plans.

Mr. Washington brings 15 years of accounting and finance experience to the Department of Mental Health.



Department of Mental Health 2004 First Quarter Award Winners

Access Award

Ismail Korme, LICSW

Celebration Award

Richard Gontang, Ph.D.

Customer Service Award

Beth Gouse, Ph.D.

Mission Award

Jocelyn Ekpo and Gertha Pollard

Support Our Services Award

Yvonne Smith

Nominating Committee

Evone Butler

Lois Calhoun

Venida Hamilton

Linda Kaufman

Martha Knisley

Liane Rozell

Benita Russ

Check out the DMH Intranet for pictures.

DMH Intranet Site Online, More Features Coming Soon

Employees are encouraged to check out the DMH **Intranet** site. The site serves to assist staff members find needed information pertaining to the Department. Simply launch an Internet Explorer window and type **dmhweb** in the address field and you'll be in for a ride. It is only accessible within DMH. The site is currently under construction and not all features are available. Notices will be sent out as more features become available. This site is only available from computers that are connected into the DC Government networks.

Plans for this site include but are not limited to:

- An online directory
- Documentation downloads
- Online help
- Events calendar
- FAQ pages

Remember, the DC DMH **Internet** website can be reached at **www.dmh.dc.gov** from any computer and from anywhere in the world!

Thanks to the following CSA employees for supporting the DMH NBC 4 Expo exhibit:



Jackie Bennett
Lourdes Faustin
Madeline Foreman
John Graham
Ismail Korme
Conrad Newton
Betty Palmore
John Robb
Austin Uwaeme

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